IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims * and ADD new claims * in accordance with the following:

1.　　(currently amended) An image correction apparatus which corrects ~~an~~ <u>a</u> <u>correction target</u> image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user preference obtaining unit outputting ~~images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image;~~<u>a plurality of corrected image variations of a given image, the variation corrected images including one representing the corrected image of a quality preferred widely among a large number of people and having been stored in said image correction apparatus;</u>

allowing the user to select a preferred <u>one from the</u> corrected image <u>variations</u>~~;~~<u>;</u>

deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and

an image correction unit, ~~whenever required to correct any image~~<u>so required</u>, automatically correcting the <u>correction target</u> image <u>in a predetermined manner</u> and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction.

2.　　(original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said given images are a plurality of images, and said user preference obtaining unit outputs images at two or more correction levels corresponding to the plurality of given images to allow the user to select preferred corrected images.

3.　　(original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said plurality of given images are different in type, and said user preference obtaining unit allows the user to selects preferred corrected image corresponding to each type.

4.　　(previously presented) An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

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a user preference obtaining unit outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, and allowing the user to select a preferred corrected image; and

a image correction unit correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user; and

wherein said given image is stored in advance in an image correction unit as an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users.

5. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the given image.

6. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said user preference obtaining unit requests a user to input a user identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to select a preferred corrected image.

7. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said user preference obtaining unit prints and outputs images at two or more correction level; and

said apparatus further comprises a image printing unit printing and outputting an image to be corrected which has actually been corrected by said image correction unit.

8. (currently amended) An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user corrected image obtaining unit outputting a predetermined image, and allowing a user to correct the output image by designating a correction preferred by a group of people; and

an image correction unit correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on an correction result of the user.

9. (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said predetermined images are a plurality of images, and said user corrected image obtaining unit allows a user to correct each of the plurality of output images.

10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

said plurality of predetermined images are images of different types, and said user corrected image obtaining unit allows a user to correct each of the images of the different types.

11.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the predetermined image.

12.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users is stored in said image correction apparatus.

13.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said user corrected image obtaining unit requests a user to input an identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to correct an output image.

14.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a user corrected image printing unit performing a trial printing process at an instruction of a user on an correction result obtained from the predetermined output image.

15.   (currently amended) An image correcting method for correcting an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, and allowing a user to select a preferred corrected image <u>from among presented variations including a variation selected by a group of other users</u>; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user.

16.   (currently amended)   An image correcting method for correcting an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

outputting a predetermined image <u>and image variations around the predetermined image where the predetermined image is an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users</u>, and allowing a user to <u>select</u><s>correct</s> <u>one of the predestined and variation images as an</u><s>the</s> output image; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on ~~an correction~~ the selection result of the user.

17.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps of:

outputting a predetermined image and image variations around the predetermined image where the predetermined image is an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users, and allowing a user to ~~correct the~~ select one of the predestined and variation images as an output image; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on ~~an correction~~ the selection result of the user.

18.   (original) An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

user preference obtaining means for outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image where one of the correction levels is preferred by a group of people, and allowing a user to select a preferred corrected image; and

image correction means for correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user.

19.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said given images are a plurality of images, and said user preference obtaining unit outputs images at two or more correction levels corresponding to the plurality of given images to allow the user to select preferred corrected images.

20.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

said plurality of given images are different in type, and said user preference obtaining unit allows the user to selects preferred corrected image corresponding to each type.

21.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising

a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the given image.

22.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said user preference obtaining unit requests a user to input a user identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to select a preferred corrected image.

23.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said user preference obtaining unit prints and outputs images at two or more correction level; and

said apparatus further comprises a image printing unit printing and outputting an image to be corrected which has actually been corrected by said image correction unit.

24.   (previously presented) A process of adjusting an image according to the preferences of several users, comprising:

displaying adjusted images to each of the users where the adjusted images are an original image to which different levels of adjustment have been applied;

allowing each of the users to select one of the adjusted image as preferred adjusted image;

determining the preferred adjusted image preferred by the users as a group as a group preferred adjusted image;

storing adjustment parameters associated with the group preferred adjusted image for each of the users;

presenting to a new user the group preferred adjusted image and variations of the group preferred adjusted image;

allowing the new user to select one of the group preferred or variation images; and

automatically adjusting subsequent images for each the new user responsive to the selection by the new adjustment parameters for that user.

25.   (new) An image correction apparatus which corrects a correction target image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user preference obtaining unit outputting a plurality of corrected image variations of a given image, the variation corrected images including one representing the corrected image of a quality preferred widely among a large number of people and having been stored in said image correction apparatus;

allowing the user to select a preferred one from the corrected image variations;

deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and

an image correction unit, so required, automatically correcting the correction target image in a predetermined manner and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction, and

wherein a user may register various kinds of preferences using different user name variations respectively.

26.   (new) A method, comprising:

determining an image characteristic type preferred by a group of people;

presenting variations of an image to a user including a variation that corresponds to the preferred type;

allowing the user to select one of the variations; and

reproducing images for the user responsive to the selected one of the variations.